# The State of New Hampshire

218-2017-CV-1036

Rockingham County

I, Maureen F. O'Neil, Clerk of the Superior Court of the State of New Hampshire for the County of Rockingham, the same being a court of record having a seal, do hereby certify that I am the lawful custodian of the seal, files, records and proceedings of said Court, heretofore existing in said state and that I am the proper person to make out and certify copies thereof. And I further certify that I have attached copies of all pleadings and correspondence filed in this Court wherein Patricia Hall-Cloutier is Plaintiff and Sig Sauer, Inc is defendant.

Markaum F. O'Nail Clerk



#### **ROCKINGHAM SUPERIOR COURT**

## **CASE SUMMARY**

#### CASE No. 218-2017-CV-01036

Patricia Hall-Cloutier v SIG SAUER, Inc.

Location: Rockingham Superior Court Judicial Officer: Anderson, David A

Filed on: 09/11/2017

#### **CASE INFORMATION**

Case Type: Tort-Wrongful Discharge

Status:

10/19/2017 Closed

PARTY INFORMATION	LT.

Plaintiff

Hall-Cloutier, Patricia

Attorneys

Sherman, John P., ESQ

Retained 603-570-4837(W)

Defendant

SIG SAUER, Inc.

Van Oot, Martha, ESQ

Retained 603-559-2700(W)

DATE	Events &	& Orders of the Court	Index
09/11/2017	Complaint - Civil		Index #2
09/13/2017	Summons on Complaint		Index #3
09/13/2017	Service SIG SAUER, Inc.	served 09/20/2017	
09/20/2017	Service		
09/25/2017	Acceptance of Service fb Atty Debra Ford		Index #4
09/11/2017	Appearance Filed by: Attorney Sherman, John P., E	ESQ	Index #1
10/18/2017	Appearance Filed by: Attorney Van Oot, Martha, E	sq	Index #5
10/18/2017	Other Filed by: Attorney Van Oot, Martha, E Notice of Filing of Notice of Removal	sq	Index #6
10/18/2017	Notice-Removal to Federal Dist Ct Filed by: Attorney Van Oot, Martha, E	sQ	Index #7
10/19/2017	Other Copy of Clerks Certificate		Index #8
10/18/2017	Removed to Federal District Court		<u> </u>
TARGET	DATE	Time Standards	<u> </u>



Representing Management Exclusiv Jackson Lewis P.C. ALBANY, NY

Suite 363

100 International Drive

Tel 603 559-2700

Fax 603 559-2701

www.jacksonlewis.com

GREENVILLE, SC HARTFORD, CT

ALBUQUERQUE, NM

ATLANTA, GA

BALTIMORE, MD

BIRMINGHAM, AL

CINCINNATI, OH

CLEVELAND, OH

AUSTIN TX

BOSTON, MA

CHICAGO, IL

DALLAS, TX

DAYTON, OH

DENVER, CO

DETROIT, MI

GRAND RAPIDS, MI

n Workplace Law and Related Litigation

HONOLULU, HIS HOUSTON, TX

INDIANAPOLIS, IN JACKSONVILLE, FL KANSAS CITY REGION LAS VEGAS, NV LONG ISLAND, NY

LOS ANGELES, CA MADISON, WI MEMPHIS, TN MIAMI, FL MILWAUKEE, WI

MORRISTOWN, NI NEW ORLEANS, LA NEW YORK, NY NORFOLK, VA OMAHA, NE ORANGE COUNTY, CA ORLANDO, FL PHILADELPHIA, PA PHOENIX, AZ PITTSRURGH, PA

PORTLAND, OR

PROVIDENCE, RI

PORTSMOUTH, NH

MONMOUTH COUNTY, NJ RALEIGH, NC RICHMOND, VA SACRAMENTO, CA SALT LAKE CITY, UT SAN DIEGO, CA SAN FRANCISCO, CA SAN JUAN, PR SEATTLE, WA ST. LOUIS, MO STAMFORD, CT TAMPA, FL WASHINGTON, DC REGION

WHITE PLAINS, NY

MINNEAPOLIS, MN \*through an affiliation with Jackson Lewis P.C., a Law Corporation

MARTHA VAN OOT DIRECT DIAL: 603.559.2735 MARTHA.VANOOT@JACKSONLEWIS.COM

October 16, 2017

Maureen F. O'Neil, Clerk Rockingham County Superior Court P.O. Box 1258 Kingston, NH 03848-1258

Re: 218-2017-CV-01036 Patricia Hall-Cloutier v SIG SAUER, Inc.

Dear Clerk O'Neil:

Enclosed for filing Defendants' Notice of Filing of Notice of Removal to the United States District Court.

We would appreciate it if you would please provide us with a certified copy of your file in this case. Enclosed is our firm check in the amount of \$15.00 to cover the fee for same.

As you know, pursuant to federal statute, the certified copy of the state court record must be filed with the U.S. District Court within 14 days. Therefore, I would appreciate it if you would have your office to call or email our paralegal Irene Dumais (559.2704 (direct) or 559.2700 (main) or irene.dumais@jacksonlewis.com) as soon as possible to advise her if there is any additional cost so that we can arrange for payment. Thank you very much for your assistance with this matter.

Sincerely.

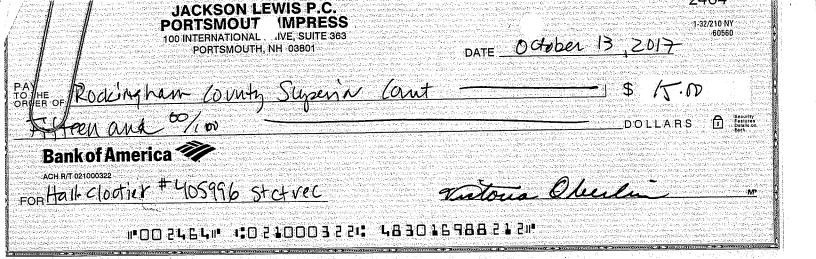
Martha Van Ool

MVO:ijd

**Enclosures** 

cc (w/enc):

John P. Sherman, Esq.



October 16, 2017

Maureen F. O'Neil, Clerk Rockingham County Superior Court P.O. Box 1258 Kingston, NH 03848-1258

Re: 218-2017-CV-01036 Patricia Hall-Cloutier v SIG SAUER, Inc.

Dear Clerk O'Neil:

Enclosed for filing Defendants' Notice of Filing of Notice of Removal to the United States District Court.

We would appreciate it if you would please provide us with a certified copy of your file in this case. Enclosed is our firm check in the amount of \$15.00 to cover the fee for same.

As you know, pursuant to federal statute, the certified copy of the state court record must be filed with the U.S. District Court within 14 days. Therefore, I would appreciate it if you would have your office to call or email our paralegal Irene Dumais (559.2704 (direct) or 559.2700 (main) or <a href="mailto:irene.dumais@jacksonlewis.com">irene.dumais@jacksonlewis.com</a>) as soon as possible to advise her if there is any additional cost so that we can arrange for payment. Thank you very much for your assistance with this matter.

Sincerely,

Martha Van Oot

MVO:ijd

Enclosures

cc (w/enc): John P. Sherman, Esq.



September 22, 2017

Maureen F. O'Neil, Clerk Rockingham County Superior Court P.O. Box 1258 Kingston, NH 03848-1258

RE:

Patricia Hall-Cloutier v. SIG SAUER, Inc.

Case No. 218-2017-cv-01036

Dear Clerk O'Neil:

Enclosed herewith please find the Summons and an Acceptance and Waiver of Service.

If you have any questions or require any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact

Thank you for your attention to this matter

Sincerely,

John P. Sherman

-₽∕S/mph

**Enclosures** 

cc: Client

#### THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE JUDICIAL BRANCH

SUPERIOR COURT

Rockingham Superior Court Rockingham Cty Courthouse/PO Box 1258 Kingston NH 03848-1258

September 13, 2017

Telephone: 1-855-212-1234 TTY/TDD Relay: (800) 735-2964 http://www.courts.state.nh.us

**FILE COPY** 

Case Name:

Patricia Hall-Cloutier v SIG SAUER, Inc.

Case Number:

218-2017-CV-01036

Dear Attorney Sherman:

Enclosed please find summons for service on the defendant.

Maureen F. O'Neil Clerk of Court

(504)

C: John P. Sherman, ESQ

ROCKTIONALL CURECUST CALL 2011 SEP 11 A. S. 00

September 7, 2017

Maureen F. O'Neil, Clerk Rockingham County Superior Court P.O. Box 1258 Kingston, NH 03848-1258

RE: Patricia Hall-Cloutier v. SIG SAUER, Inc.

Dear Clerk O'Neil:

Enclosed herewith please find an original and two (2) copies of the Complaint along with my Appearance.

Also enclosed is a check in the amount of \$260.00 for the filing fee.

If you have any questions or require any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you for your attention to this matter

Sincerely,

John P. Sherman

JPS/mph Enclosures

cc: Client

AGENTALIA COPERTICALIA ZEIN SEP II A 9-00

September 7, 2017

Maureen F. O'Neil, Clerk Rockingham County Superior Court P.O. Box 1258 Kingston, NH 03848-1258

RE: Patricia Hall-Cloutier v. SIG SAUER, Inc.

Dear Clerk O'Neil:

Enclosed herewith please find an original and two (2) copies of the Complaint along with my Appearance.

Also enclosed is a check in the amount of \$260.00 for the filing fee.

If you have any questions or require any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you for your attention to this matter

LAWOUL.

Sincerely,

John P. Sherman

JPS/mph Enclosures cc: Client

### UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

Patricia Hall-Cloutier,

Plaintiff

٧.

Civil Case No.

SIG SAUER, Inc.,

Defendant

# ROCKINGHAM SUPERIOR COURT

# NOTICE OF REMOVAL AND DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§1441 and 1446, Defendant SIG SAUER, INC., by and through its attorneys, JACKSON LEWIS P.C., hereby removes this action from the Superior Court of the State of New Hampshire, Rockingham County, to the United States District Court for the District of New Hampshire. In support of this Notice of Removal, Defendant states as follows:

- 1. By Complaint dated August 10, 2017 and filed on September 11, 2017 in the Rockingham County Superior Court, Plaintiff Patricia Hall-Cloutier instituted a claim against Defendant, Docket No. 218-2017-CV-01036.
- 2. In accordance with 28 U.S.C. § 1446(a), true and correct copies of the process, pleadings, documents, and orders which have been served upon Defendant are attached hereto as Exhibit 1. Certified copies of the same will be forwarded upon receipt of same from the Rockingham County Superior Court.
- 3. Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1446(a), this notice of removal is timely filed within thirty (30) days of September 14, 2017, the date on which counsel for Defendant received the Complaint, Summons and a request to accept and waive service from Plaintiff's counsel.

- 4. Defendant has not served any answer or responsive pleading to the Complaint, nor made any appearance or argument before the state court.
- 5. Removal is proper under 28 U.S.C. §1441(a) because the United States District Court for the District of New Hampshire has original jurisdiction over this case pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1331 in that Plaintiff alleges employment retaliation in violation of the Family Medical Leave Act ("FMLA"), 29 U.S.C. §2601 et seq., as well as claims of wrongful termination and violation of the Whistleblower Protection Act under state law.
- 6. Defendant submits this Notice without waiving any defenses to the claims asserted by Plaintiff or conceding that Plaintiff has pled claims upon which relief can be granted.
- 7. As this action could have been commenced in this Court, removal is proper.

  28 U.S.C. §1441(a). Furthermore, this Court may exercise supplemental jurisdiction over the Plaintiff's state law claims. See 28 U.S.C. §1367(a)

Respectfully Submitted, SIG SAUER, INC., By its attorneys, JACKSON LEWIS P.C.,

Date: October 16, 2017

By: /s/Martha Van Oot

Martha Van Oot, NHBA #963 100 International Drive, Suite 363

Portsmouth, NH 03801

603.559.2700

martha.vanoot@jacksonlewis.com

#### Certificate of Service

I hereby certify that the foregoing was this day served via Conventional Filing on: Maureen F. O'Neil, Clerk, Rockingham County Superior Court, P.O. Box 1258, Kingston, NH, 03848-1258 and counsel for Plaintiff: John P. Sherman, Esq., Sherman Law, PLLC, 155 Fleet Street, Portsmouth, NH, 03801.

Date: October 16, 2017 /s/Martha Van Oot

Martha Van Oot

**EXHIBIT 1** 

# THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE JUDICIAL BRANCH

SUPERIOR COURT

Rockingham Superior Court Rockingham Cty Courthouse/PO Box 1258 Kingston NH 03848-1258

FORSERVICE

Telephone: 1-855-212-1234 TTY/TDD Relay: (800) 735-2964 http://www.courts.state.nh.us

#### SUMMONS IN A CIVIL ACTION

Case Name:

Patricia Hall-Cloutier v SIG SAUER, Inc.

Case Number:

218-2017-CV-01036

Date Complaint Filed: September 11, 2017

A Complaint has been filed against SIG SAUER, Inc. in this Court. A copy of the Complaint is attached.

#### The Court ORDERS that ON OR BEFORE:

October 28, 2017

Patricia Hall-Cloutier shall have this Summons and the attached

Complaint served upon SIG SAUER, Inc. by in hand or by leaving a copy

at his/her abode, or by such other service as is allowed by law.

November 18, 2017

Patricia Hall-Cloutier shall file the return(s) of service with this Court. Failure to do so may result in this action being dismissed without further

notice.

30 days after Defendant

is served

SIG SAUER, Inc. must file an Appearance and Answer or other

responsive pleading form with this Court. A copy of the Appearance and

Answer or other responsive pleading must be sent to the party listed below and any other party who has filed an Appearance in this matter.

**Notice to SIG SAUER, Inc.:** If you do not comply with these requirements you will be considered in default and the Court may issue orders that affect you without your input.

Send copies to:

John P. Sherman, ESQ

Sherman Law PLLC 155 Fleet Street Portsmouth NH 03801

BY ORDER OF THE COURT

September 13, 2017

Maureen F. O'Neil Clerk of Court

(504)

#### STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

#### **ROCKINGHAM COUNTY**

SUPERIOR COURT

Patricia Hall-Cloutier 231 Long Hill Road Dover, NH 03820

٧.

SIG SAUER Inc. 72 Pease Boulevard Newington, NH 03801

#### COMPLAINT AND JURY DEMAND

#### **PARTIES**

- 1. Patricia Hall-Cloutier ("Ms. Hall") is an individual residing at 231 Long Hill Road, Dover, New Hampshire.
- 2. Defendant SIG SAUER Inc. ("SIG") is a Delaware corporation registered to do business in New Hampshire with a principal address at 72 Pease Boulevard, Newington, New Hampshire.

#### JURISDICTION AND VENUE

- 3. The Court has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to RSA 491:7.
- 4. Venue is proper pursuant to RSA 507:9.

#### FACTS RELEVANT TO ALL COUNTS

- 5. Ms. Hall has extensive experience with the laws and procedures relating to the import/export of controlled firearms.
- 6. On or about September 15, 2015, SIG hired Ms. Hall as the Director of Import/Export Compliance.

#### No Discipline

- 7. Ms. Hall performed her job duties satisfactorily.
- 8. She was not the subject of any discipline pursuant to SIG's disciplinary policies.

#### Recent Raise and Bonus

- 9. In February 2017 Ms. Hall received a performance-based raise.
- 10. On May 11, 2017 Ms. Hall received a raise.

### Intentional Violation of Federal Controlled Weapons Export Laws

- 11. Throughout the course of her employment, Ms. Hall identified and reported instances in which documentation regarding the export of SIG weapons violated applicable United States laws regarding export license applications, agreements, and regulations.
- 12. One particularly noteworthy instance of such a violation happened on or about June 1, 2017.
- 13. Ms. Hall discovered that someone within SIG's Sales Department changed the identified recipient of a shipment of controlled weapons, as identified by the National Firearms Act.
- 14. Ms. Hall was able to confirm that someone at SIG removed the automatically generated Oracle invoice from the documents package and substituted a manually created invoice that identified a different end-user than the end-user identified on the export license that Congress, the State Department (DOS-DDTC), and the ATF approved.
- 15. Ms. Hall confirmed that this happened by comparing available documentation regarding the shipment including a comparison of the approved export license authorization with the documents sent to the freight forwarder.
- 16. Upon discovering the end-user change, she also communicated directly with the freight forwarder which advised that the end-user the Sales Department had identified was the

end-user on the documents they received.

#### Sales Department Admitted Changing End-User

- 17. Ms. Hall then discovered that the Sales Department did *not* send the freight forwarder all of the usual required documents.
- 18. Instead, it omitted several of the required ones that would have had the correct end-user *and* substituted the manually created invoice identifying the new end-user.
- 19. Upon information and belief, the Sales Department communicated with the freight forwarder in this way to conceal that it changed the end-user.
- 20. When asked how it happened that he did not send the freight forwarder all of the usually required and forwarded documents, the Sales Department representative advised that he had "forgotten to send all of them."
  - 21. This was an intentional misrepresentation.
- 22. When asked why the end-user was changed, the Sales person advised that the new name of the end-user was the "Indonesian way of spelling Ministry of Defense."
- 23. When asked why the address for the end-user—in addition to the spelling of the name—also was changed, the Sales person initially had no response. Another individual present then claimed, however, that he received "an email from the agent for the customer who directed that the shipment needed to go to the new address."
  - 24. This was an intentional misrepresentation.
  - 25. Ms. Hall asked to the see the email.
  - 26. The Sales employee was unable to produce it.
  - 27. Ms. Hall asked that he send it to her.
  - 28. She never received it.

- 29. Ms. Hall then addressed this directly with the International Logistics Manager.

  He, too, identified that he had not received the full set of usual shipping documents from the Sales Department.
- 30. This action of changing the end-user on an export shipment of controlled weapons directly violated federal law including, but not limited to, the export license authorization, applicable ATF regulations, State Department statutes and regulations, Commerce Department statutes and regulations, US Customs and Border Protection statutes and regulations, and, upon information and belief, the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (FCPA).

#### Direct Report to Mr. Shawver

- 31. On or about June 1, 2017, Ms. Hall reported what she learned directly to her supervisor Mr. Shawver.
- 32. Specifically, she reported that she learned of SIG employees who appeared to have intentionally violated federal export laws regarding the shipment of controlled weapons to a foreign country.
- 33. Mr. Shawver responded, "it is exporting 101 that you do not change the enduser on a shipment."
- 34. This was a reference to requirements within federal statutes and regulations requiring that exports be shipped to the end-user identified on the export license.
  - 35. He asked Ms. Hall about the status of the shipment.
- 36. She advised that part of it was still in the country and the rest was already in the air. She advised that she was working with the freight forwarder to correct the filing in the ACE system so that end-user to receive the shipment was the actual one listed on the export license authorization and *not* the one identified on the manually created invoice.

37. The conversation with Mr. Shawver ended with his comment "it sounds like we need to have an investigation here."

#### Follow-up With Freight Forwarder on June 5, 2017

- 38. Mr. Shawver was out of the office the next few days on vacation.
- 39. On Monday June 5, 2017 Ms. Hall emailed the freight forwarder for further information regarding this shipment. She requested Proof of Delivery reflecting that the shipment was sent to the correct end-user the one identified on the export license authorization and *not* the one on the manual invoice.
- 40. She spoke directly with the freight forwarder advising that she would require this information as there was going to be an investigation regarding the shipment.
- 41. The representative advised that providing such a proof of delivery would "take some time."

#### No Mention During Morning Communication - June 6, 2017

- 42. Mr. Shawyer was scheduled to return to work on Tuesday, June 6, 2017.
- 43. That morning, he called Ms. Hall to advise that he had a late-night flight the night before and would be in the office later in the morning or early afternoon.
- 44. Mr. Shawver asked Ms. Hall questions about a Chinese toolmaker and its involvement with one of SIG's Israeli suppliers.
- 45. Ms. Hall notified Mr. Shawver that a meeting was scheduled for that Thursday to address issues surrounding this supplier and the export violation of technical data to China and a violation of the manufacturing licensing agreement issued by DDTC.

#### FMLA Leave Reminder

46. Ms. Hall reminded Mr. Shawver during this early morning June 6th

communication that she would be out of the office that afternoon to attend her mother's oncology appointment.

47. Ms. Shawver and others at SIG were well aware of her mother's serious health problems and Ms. Hall's need to assist in caring for her. Previously, Ms. Hall had taken leave using her accrued vacation and personal time to care for her mother and as recently as April 2017 had notified SIG that she would require FMLA leave throughout 2017 to care for her mother especially following her anticipated third surgery in May.

#### Sudden Notice of Termination

- 48. While working in the office that morning Ms. Hall did not see Mr. Shawver.
- 49. Shortly before she was scheduled to leave for her mother's doctor appointment,

  Ms. Hall received a call from Human Resources ("HR") asking that she attend a meeting.
- 50. She went to HR where she observed Mr. Shawver, who appeared to have just arrived at work, standing next to the HR representative's desk.
- 51. Mr. Shawver then advised Ms. Hall that there had been a "reorganization", that Ms. Hall's position had become "redundant", and that SIG was "letting her go."
  - 52. One of the security managers then escorted me from the building.

#### LEGAL CLAIMS

#### COUNT I Whistleblower Claim RSA 275-E

- 53. Ms. Hall restates and incorporates by reference all allegations within this Complaint
- 54. Ms. Hall engaged in activity protected by the Whistleblower Statute when she made numerous good faith reports that she had reasonable cause to believe were a violation of United States law. These instances included, but were not limited to, reporting numerous

instances of direct and apparently intentional violations of federal law including, but not limited to, the export license authorization, applicable ATF regulations, State Department statutes and regulations, Commerce Department statutes and regulations, US Customs and Border Protection statutes and regulations, and, upon information and belief, the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (FCPA).

- 55. Thereafter, Ms. Hall was subjected to action that would dissuade a reasonable worker from reporting the legal violations when SIG terminated her employment.
- 56. There was a causal connection between Ms. Hall's protected activity and the adverse employment action.
- 57. As a direct and proximate result of the foregoing, Ms. Hall suffered damages and injury.
- 58. Ms. Hall demands judgment against defendant for all available damages by statute and common law including, but not limited to, pain and suffering, compensatory and enhanced compensatory damages, lost wages, back pay, front pay, attorney's fees, costs, any and all other damages to which he is entitled including all interest all of which is within the jurisdictional limit of this Court.

# COUNT II (Wrongful Termination)

- 59. Ms. Hall incorporates by reference all allegations within this Complaint.
- 60. At all times during her employment with defendant, Ms. Hall performed her duties with diligence and competence.
- 61. Ms. Hall engaged in protected activity under RSA 275-E by notifying her employer of numerous violations of federal export laws, violation of company policies, her investigation regarding these violations, the responses that employees provided, the names of

the individuals involved in the activity, and her belief that the actions may and were likely to result in harm to the SIG SAUER. Ms. Hall also engaged in protected activity by availing herself of FMLA leave rights and benefits.

- 62. Defendant terminated Ms. Hall's employment because she engaged in protected activity under RSA 275-E and/or the FMLA.
  - 63. Defendant's decision was motivated by bad faith, malice, or retaliation.
  - 64. As a direct and proximate result of the foregoing, Ms. Hall suffered damages.
- 65. Ms. Hall demands judgment against defendant, including, but not limited to compensatory and enhanced compensatory damages, lost wages, back pay, front pay, attorney's fees, costs, any and all other damages to which she is entitled including all interest all of which is within the jurisdictional limit of this Court.

#### COUNT III (FMLA Retaliation)

- 66. The plaintiff incorporates by reference all allegations within this Complaint.
- 67. Ms. Hall engaged in statutorily protected conduct by requesting FMLA leave.
- 68. Defendant terminated Ms. Hall's employment because of Ms. Hall's exercise of her protected rights.
- 69. Defendant's termination of Ms. Hall's employment, therefore, was causally related to her engaging in protected activity.
- 70. Ms. Hall demands judgment against defendant including, but not limited, backpay, frontpay, compensatory damages, enhanced compensatory damages, and attorneys fees, together with interest and costs and such other and further relief as this Court deems proper.

#### JURY DEMAND

71. Plaintiff demands a jury trial on all claims so triable.

Respectfully submitted,

PATRICIA HALL-CLOUTIER

By her attorneys,

SHERMAN LAW, PLLC

Dated: 8/10/2017

John P. Sherman, Bar No. 12536

Sherman Law, PLLC

155 Fleet Street

Portsmouth, NH 03801

(603) 570-4837

# THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE JUDICIAL BRANCH

http://www.courts.state.nh.us

Court Name:	Rockingham Superior Court	
Case Name:	Patricia Hall-Cloutier v. SIG SA	UER, Inc.
Case Number: (if known)		
	APPEARANC	E/WITHDRAWAL
APPEARANCE	ince (Select One)	
Appearance	· <u></u>	pearance (Civil cases only)
— • • •	ance, scope of representation:	carende (Own cases only)
Select One:		
As Counsel for Patricia Hall	or: 231 Long Hill R	load, Dover, NH 03820
(Name)	(Address)	(Telephone Number)
(Name)	(Address)	(Telephone Number)
(Name)	(Address)	(Telephone Number)
I will represe	nt myself ( <i>self-represented</i> )	
WITHDRAWAL		
As Counsel for _		
☐ Appearance:	entation: (Select one)	
	of withdrawal was sent to my cli	ient(s) on: at the following address:
☐ A moti	on to withdraw is being filed.	
		ce as I have completed the terms of the limited
☐ The te	rms of limited representation hav	ve not been completed. A motion to withdraw is being
appearance for t	his case by: Hand-delivery arties to use this method of service).	odocument to the parties who have filed an OR US Mail OR Email (only when there is prior
Date Sherman Law, P	LLC	Signature John P. Sherman
Mailing Address 155 Fleet Street,	Portsmouth, NH 03801	Printed Name jsherman@johnshermanlaw.com
603-570-4837		Email Address 12536
Telephone	_	NH Bar ID # if attorney

NHJB-2318-S (03/24/2014)

#### STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

**ROCKINGHAM COUNTY** 

SUPERIOR COURT

218-2017-CV-01036

Patricia Hall-Cloutier

v.

SIG SAUER, Inc.

#### NOTICE OF FILING OF NOTICE OF REMOVAL

To:

Maureen F. O'Neil, Clerk

Rockingham County Superior Court

P.O. Box 1258

Kingston, NH 03848-1258

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§1441 and 1446, Defendant SIG SAUER, INC., by and through its attorneys, JACKSON LEWIS P.C., has this day filed in the Clerk's Office of the United States District Court for the District of New Hampshire, Concord, New Hampshire, a Notice of Removal of this case, as shown by copy attached, and in accordance with the above statute, the State Court proceedings should proceed no further herein, unless and until the case is remanded.

> Respectfully Submitted, SIG SAUER, INC.,

By its attorneys,

JACKSON LEWIS P.C.,

Date: October 16, 2017

By:

Martha Van Oot, NHBA #963

100 International Drive, Suite 363

Portsmouth, NH 03801

603.559.2700

martha.vanoot@jacksonlewis.com

#### Certificate of Service

I hereby certify that the foregoing was this day served via Conventional Filing counsel for Plaintiff: John P. Sherman, Esq., Sherman Law, PLLC, 155 Fleet Street, Portsmouth, NH, 03801.

Date: October 16, 2017

Martha Van Oot

# THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE JUDICIAL BRANCH

http://www.courts.state.nh.us

Court Name:	Rockingham Superior Court		
Case Name:	Patricia Hall-Cloutier v SIG SAU	ER, Inc.	) }
Case Number:	218-2017-CV-01036	·	SUPER 2011 OCT
,	APPEARANCE	/WITHDRAWAL	금 꿈이
✓ Appearance	ance (Select One)  Limited Apperance, scope of representation:	earance (Civil cases only)	RIOR COURT
0-1			
Select One:  As Counsel to SIG SAUER, Inc. (Name)		d, Newington, NH 03801	(603) 610-3000 (Telephone Number)
(Name)	(Address)		(Telephone Number)
(Name)  I will represe  WITHDRAWAL  As Counsel for	(Address) nt myself ( <i>self-represented</i> )		(Telephone Number)
Appearance	entation: (Select one) e of withdrawal was sent to my clie	nt(s) on:	_ at the following address:
Limited Appe	ion to withdraw is being filed. earance: (Select one) vithdrawing my limited appearance	e as I have completed the	terms of the limited
represen			
appearance for	this date I provided a copy of this of this case by:  Hand-delivery Of arties to use this method of service).	PR 🗹 US Mail OR 🗌 En JACKÇÇQN LEWIŞ P.C. ✓	
October 16, 2017 Date	1	By: Watha Van Signature	COL
100 International	Drive, Suite 363	Martha Van Oot	
Mailing Address Portsmouth, NH	03801	Printed Name martha.vanoot@jacksonlev	vis.com
i orismount, 1911	0.5001	Email Address	
(603) 559-2700 Telephone		963 NH Bar ID # if attorney	

#### STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

**ROCKINGHAM COUNTY** 

SUPERIOR COURT

Patricia Hall-Cloutier

2017 SEP 25 A 9 21

٧.

SIG SAUER, Inc.

Case No. 218-2017-CV-01036

#### ACCEPTANCE AND WAIVER OF SERVICE

The undersigned, as counsel for and on behalf of Defendant SIG SAUER, INC., hereby accepts service of the Summons and Complaint filed September 11, 2017 in the above-entitled matter, and waives any and all formalities and defenses in connection with service of notice and process.

Defendant does not waive other defenses to which it may be entitled.

JACKSON LEWIS P.C.

Date: September 20, 2017

By:

Debra Weiss Ford, NH Bar # 2687

100 International Drive, Suite 363

Portsmouth, NH 03801

603.559.2727

debra.ford@jacksonlewis.com

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

**ROCKINGHAM COUNTY** 

ROCKINGHAM SUPERIOR COURT

Patricia Hall-Cloutier

2011 SEP 25 A 9 21

v.

SIG SAUER, Inc.

Case No. 218-2017-CV-01036

#### ACCEPTANCE AND WAIVER OF SERVICE

The undersigned, as counsel for and on behalf of Defendant SIG SAUER, INC., hereby accepts service of the Summons and Complaint filed September 11, 2017 in the above-entitled matter, and waives any and all formalities and defenses in connection with service of notice and process.

Defendant does not waive other defenses to which it may be entitled.

JACKSON LEWIS P.C..

Date: September 20, 2017

By:

Debra Weiss Ford, NH Bar # 2687 100 International Drive, Suite 363

Portsmouth, NH 03801

603.559.2727

debra.ford@jacksonlewis.com

#### THE JIATE OF NEW HAMPSH. 2 JUDICIAL BRANCH

SUPERIOR COURT

Rockingham Superior Court Rockingham Cty Courthouse/PO Box 1258

)RRETURN Kingston NH 03848-1258

Telephone: 1-855-212-1234 TTY/TDD Relay: (800) 735-2964 http://www.courts.state.nh.us

#### SUMMONS IN A CIVIL ACTION

Case Name:

Patricia Hall-Cloutier v SIG SAUER, Inc.

Case Number:

218-2017-CV-01036

Date Complaint Filed: September 11, 2017

A Complaint has been filed against SIG SAUER, Inc. in this Court. A copy of the Complaint is attached.

#### The Court ORDERS that ON OR BEFORE:

Patricia Hall-Cloutier shall have this Summons and the attached October 28, 2017

Complaint served upon SIG SAUER, Inc. by in hand or by leaving a copy

at his/her abode, or by such other service as is allowed by law.

November 18, 2017

Patricia Hall-Cloutier shall file the return(s) of service with this Court.

Failure to do so may result in this action being dismissed without further

notice.

30 days after Defendant

is served

SIG SAUER, Inc. must file an Appearance and Answer or other

responsive pleading form with this Court. A copy of the Appearance and

Answer or other responsive pleading must be sent to the party listed below and any other party who has filed an Appearance in this matter.

Notice to SIG SAUER, Inc.: If you do not comply with these requirements you will be considered in default and the Court may issue orders that affect you without your input.

Send copies to:

John P. Sherman, ESQ

Sherman Law PLLC 155 Fleet Street

Portsmouth NH 03801

BY ORDER OF THE COURT

September 13, 2017

Maureen F. O'Neil

Clerk of Court

(504)

#### STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

#### ROCKINGHAM COUNTY

SUPERIOR COURT

Patricia Hall-Cloutier 231 Long Hill Road Dover, NH 03820

v.

SIG SAUER Inc. 72 Pease Boulevard Newington, NH 03801

#### **COMPLAINT AND JURY DEMAND**

#### **PARTIES**

- 1. Patricia Hall-Cloutier ("Ms. Hall") is an individual residing at 231 Long Hill Road, Dover, New Hampshire.
- 2. Defendant SIG SAUER Inc. ("SIG") is a Delaware corporation registered to do business in New Hampshire with a principal address at 72 Pease Boulevard, Newington, New Hampshire.

#### **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

- 3. The Court has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to RSA 491:7.
- 4. Venue is proper pursuant to RSA 507:9.

#### FACTS RELEVANT TO ALL COUNTS

- 5. Ms. Hall has extensive experience with the laws and procedures relating to the import/export of controlled firearms.
- 6. On or about September 15, 2015, SIG hired Ms. Hall as the Director of Import/Export Compliance.

No Discipline

- 7. Ms. Hall performed her job duties satisfactorily.
- 8. She was not the subject of any discipline pursuant to SIG's disciplinary policies.

#### Recent Raise and Bonus

- 9. In February 2017 Ms. Hall received a performance-based raise.
- 10. On May 11, 2017 Ms. Hall received a raise.

### Intentional Violation of Federal Controlled Weapons Export Laws

- 11. Throughout the course of her employment, Ms. Hall identified and reported instances in which documentation regarding the export of SIG weapons violated applicable United States laws regarding export license applications, agreements, and regulations.
- 12. One particularly noteworthy instance of such a violation happened on or about June 1, 2017.
- 13. Ms. Hall discovered that someone within SIG's Sales Department changed the identified recipient of a shipment of controlled weapons, as identified by the National Firearms Act.
- 14. Ms. Hall was able to confirm that someone at SIG removed the automatically generated Oracle invoice from the documents package and substituted a manually created invoice that identified a different end-user than the end-user identified on the export license that Congress, the State Department (DOS-DDTC), and the ATF approved.
- 15. Ms. Hall confirmed that this happened by comparing available documentation regarding the shipment including a comparison of the approved export license authorization with the documents sent to the freight forwarder.
- 16. Upon discovering the end-user change, she also communicated directly with the freight forwarder which advised that the end-user the Sales Department had identified was the

end-user on the documents they received.

#### Sales Department Admitted Changing End-User

- 17. Ms. Hall then discovered that the Sales Department did *not* send the freight forwarder all of the usual required documents.
- 18. Instead, it omitted several of the required ones that would have had the correct end-user *and* substituted the manually created invoice identifying the new end-user.
- 19. Upon information and belief, the Sales Department communicated with the freight forwarder in this way to conceal that it changed the end-user.
- 20. When asked how it happened that he did not send the freight forwarder all of the usually required and forwarded documents, the Sales Department representative advised that he had "forgotten to send all of them."
  - 21. This was an intentional misrepresentation.
- 22. When asked why the end-user was changed, the Sales person advised that the new name of the end-user was the "Indonesian way of spelling Ministry of Defense."
- 23. When asked why the address for the end-user—in addition to the spelling of the name—also was changed, the Sales person initially had no response. Another individual present then claimed, however, that he received "an email from the agent for the customer who directed that the shipment needed to go to the new address."
  - 24. This was an intentional misrepresentation.
  - 25. Ms. Hall asked to the see the email.
  - 26. The Sales employee was unable to produce it.
  - 27. Ms. Hall asked that he send it to her.
  - 28. She never received it.

- 29. Ms. Hall then addressed this directly with the International Logistics Manager.

  He, too, identified that he had not received the full set of usual shipping documents from the Sales Department.
- 30. This action of changing the end-user on an export shipment of controlled weapons directly violated federal law including, but not limited to, the export license authorization, applicable ATF regulations, State Department statutes and regulations, Commerce Department statutes and regulations, US Customs and Border Protection statutes and regulations, and, upon information and belief, the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (FCPA).

#### Direct Report to Mr. Shawver

- 31. On or about June 1, 2017, Ms. Hall reported what she learned directly to her supervisor Mr. Shawver.
- 32. Specifically, she reported that she learned of SIG employees who appeared to have intentionally violated federal export laws regarding the shipment of controlled weapons to a foreign country.
- 33. Mr. Shawver responded, "it is exporting 101 that you do not change the enduser on a shipment."
- 34. This was a reference to requirements within federal statutes and regulations requiring that exports be shipped to the end-user identified on the export license.
  - 35. He asked Ms. Hall about the status of the shipment.
- 36. She advised that part of it was still in the country and the rest was already in the air. She advised that she was working with the freight forwarder to correct the filing in the ACE system so that end-user to receive the shipment was the actual one listed on the export license authorization and *not* the one identified on the manually created invoice.

37. The conversation with Mr. Shawver ended with his comment "it sounds like we need to have an investigation here."

#### Follow-up With Freight Forwarder on June 5, 2017

- 38. Mr. Shawver was out of the office the next few days on vacation.
- 39. On Monday June 5, 2017 Ms. Hall emailed the freight forwarder for further information regarding this shipment. She requested Proof of Delivery reflecting that the shipment was sent to the correct end-user the one identified on the export license authorization and *not* the one on the manual invoice.
- 40. She spoke directly with the freight forwarder advising that she would require this information as there was going to be an investigation regarding the shipment.
- 41. The representative advised that providing such a proof of delivery would "take some time."

#### No Mention During Morning Communication - June 6, 2017

- 42. Mr. Shawver was scheduled to return to work on Tuesday, June 6, 2017.
- 43. That morning, he called Ms. Hall to advise that he had a late-night flight the night before and would be in the office later in the morning or early afternoon.
- 44. Mr. Shawver asked Ms. Hall questions about a Chinese toolmaker and its involvement with one of SIG's Israeli suppliers.
- 45. Ms. Hall notified Mr. Shawver that a meeting was scheduled for that Thursday to address issues surrounding this supplier and the export violation of technical data to China and a violation of the manufacturing licensing agreement issued by DDTC.

#### FMLA Leave Reminder

46. Ms. Hall reminded Mr. Shawver during this early morning June 6th

communication that she would be out of the office that afternoon to attend her mother's oncology appointment.

47. Ms. Shawver and others at SIG were well aware of her mother's serious health problems and Ms. Hall's need to assist in caring for her. Previously, Ms. Hall had taken leave using her accrued vacation and personal time to care for her mother and as recently as April 2017 had notified SIG that she would require FMLA leave throughout 2017 to care for her mother especially following her anticipated third surgery in May.

#### Sudden Notice of Termination

- 48. While working in the office that morning Ms. Hall did not see Mr. Shawver.
- 49. Shortly before she was scheduled to leave for her mother's doctor appointment,

  Ms. Hall received a call from Human Resources ("HR") asking that she attend a meeting.
- 50. She went to HR where she observed Mr. Shawver, who appeared to have just arrived at work, standing next to the HR representative's desk.
- 51. Mr. Shawver then advised Ms. Hall that there had been a "reorganization", that Ms. Hall's position had become "redundant", and that SIG was "letting her go."
  - 52. One of the security managers then escorted me from the building.

#### **LEGAL CLAIMS**

#### COUNT I Whistleblower Claim RSA 275-E

- 53. Ms. Hall restates and incorporates by reference all allegations within this Complaint
- 54. Ms. Hall engaged in activity protected by the Whistleblower Statute when she made numerous good faith reports that she had reasonable cause to believe were a violation of United States law. These instances included, but were not limited to, reporting numerous

instances of direct and apparently intentional violations of federal law including, but not limited to, the export license authorization, applicable ATF regulations, State Department statutes and regulations, Commerce Department statutes and regulations, US Customs and Border Protection statutes and regulations, and, upon information and belief, the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (FCPA).

- 55. Thereafter, Ms. Hall was subjected to action that would dissuade a reasonable worker from reporting the legal violations when SIG terminated her employment.
- 56. There was a causal connection between Ms. Hall's protected activity and the adverse employment action.
- 57. As a direct and proximate result of the foregoing, Ms. Hall suffered damages and injury.
- 58. Ms. Hall demands judgment against defendant for all available damages by statute and common law including, but not limited to, pain and suffering, compensatory and enhanced compensatory damages, lost wages, back pay, front pay, attorney's fees, costs, any and all other damages to which he is entitled including all interest all of which is within the jurisdictional limit of this Court.

#### COUNT II (Wrongful Termination)

- 59. Ms. Hall incorporates by reference all allegations within this Complaint.
- 60. At all times during her employment with defendant, Ms. Hall performed her duties with diligence and competence.
- 61. Ms. Hall engaged in protected activity under RSA 275-E by notifying her employer of numerous violations of federal export laws, violation of company policies, her investigation regarding these violations, the responses that employees provided, the names of

the individuals involved in the activity, and her belief that the actions may and were likely to result in harm to the SIG SAUER. Ms. Hall also engaged in protected activity by availing herself of FMLA leave rights and benefits.

- 62. Defendant terminated Ms. Hall's employment because she engaged in protected activity under RSA 275-E and/or the FMLA.
  - 63. Defendant's decision was motivated by bad faith, malice, or retaliation.
  - 64. As a direct and proximate result of the foregoing, Ms. Hall suffered damages.
- 65. Ms. Hall demands judgment against defendant, including, but not limited to compensatory and enhanced compensatory damages, lost wages, back pay, front pay, attorney's fees, costs, any and all other damages to which she is entitled including all interest all of which is within the jurisdictional limit of this Court.

#### COUNT III (FMLA Retaliation)

- 66. The plaintiff incorporates by reference all allegations within this Complaint.
- 67. Ms. Hall engaged in statutorily protected conduct by requesting FMLA leave.
- 68. Defendant terminated Ms. Hall's employment because of Ms. Hall's exercise of her protected rights.
- 69. Defendant's termination of Ms. Hall's employment, therefore, was causally related to her engaging in protected activity.
- 70. Ms. Hall demands judgment against defendant including, but not limited, backpay, frontpay, compensatory damages, enhanced compensatory damages, and attorneys fees, together with interest and costs and such other and further relief as this Court deems proper.

#### JURY DEMAND

71. Plaintiff demands a jury trial on all claims so triable.

Respectfully submitted,

PATRICIA HALL-CLOUTIER

By her attorneys,

SHERMAN LAW, PLLC

Dated: 8/10/2017

John P. Sherman, Bar No. 12536

Sherman Law, PLLC

155 Fleet Street

Portsmouth, NH 03801

(603) 570-4837

### THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

JUDICIAL BRANCH

http://www.courts.state.nh.us

Court Name:	Rockingham Superior Court		- MIT (59 11 / A. 9 08.
Case Name:	Patricia Hall-Cloutier v. SIG SAU	JER, Inc.	
Case Number:			
		E/WITHDRAWAL	
APPEARANCE			
✓ Appearance	ance (Select One)	earance (Civil cases only	N
	rance, scope of representation:	sarance (Olvir cases Olli)	<b>'</b>
Select One:		and the second s	
As Counsel Patricia Hall		oad, Dover, NH 03820	
(Name)	(Address)		(Telephone Number)
(Name)	(Address)	***************************************	(Telephone Number)
(Name)	(Address)		(Telephone Number)
☐ I will represe	ent myself (self-represented)		
WITHDRAWAL			
As Counsel for			
• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	entation: (Select one)		
Appearance Notice	: e of withdrawal was sent to my cli	ent(s) on:	at the following address:
A mo	tion to withdraw is being filed.		
Limited App I am v	earance: (Select one) withdrawing my limited appearanc ntation.	e as I have completed th	e terms of the limited
☐ The to filed.	erms of limited representation hav	e not been completed. A	motion to withdraw is being
appearance for agreement of the	this date I provided a copy of this this case by: Hand-delivery (parties to use this method of service).	document to the parties DR US Mail OR US Mail OR US Mail	Email (only when there is prior
Date Sherman Law,	PLLC	Signature John P. Sherman	
Mailing Address 155 Fleet Street	, Portsmouth, NH 03801	Printed Name jsherman@johnsherma	anlaw.com
603-570-4837		Email Address 12536	
Telephone		NH Bar ID # if attorney	

NHJB-2318-S (03/24/2014)

# THE TATE OF NEW HAMPSH LE JUDICIAL BRANCH

SUPERIOR COURT

Rockingham Superior Court Rockingham Cty Courthouse/PO Box 1258 Kingston NH 03848-1258 Telephone: 1-855-212-1234 TTY/TDD Relay: (800) 735-2964 http://www.courts.state.nh.us

#### SUMMONS IN A CIVIL ACTION

Case Name:

Patricia Hall-Cloutier v SIG SAUER, Inc.

Case Number:

218-2017-CV-01036

Date Complaint Filed: September 11, 2017

A Complaint has been filed against SIG SAUER, Inc. in this Court. A copy of the Complaint is

attached.

#### The Court ORDERS that ON OR BEFORE:

October 28, 2017

Patricia Hall-Cloutier shall have this Summons and the attached

Complaint served upon SIG SAUER, Inc. by in hand or by leaving a copy

at his/her abode, or by such other service as is allowed by law.

November 18, 2017

Patricia Hall-Cloutier shall file the return(s) of service with this Court.

Failure to do so may result in this action being dismissed without further

notice.

30 days after Defendant

is served

SIG SAUER, Inc. must file an Appearance and Answer or other

responsive pleading form with this Court. A copy of the Appearance and

Answer or other responsive pleading must be sent to the party listed below and any other party who has filed an Appearance in this matter.

Notice to SIG SAUER, Inc.: If you do not comply with these requirements you will be considered in default and the Court may issue orders that affect you without your input.

Send copies to:

John P. Sherman, ESQ

Sherman Law PLLC 155 Fleet Street

Portsmouth NH 03801

BY ORDER OF THE COURT

September 13, 2017

Maureen F. O'Neil

Clerk of Court

(504)

#### STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE ROUGHE

#### **ROCKINGHAM COUNTY**

SUPERIOR COURT

Patricia Hall-Cloutier 231 Long Hill Road Dover, NH 03820

v.

SIG SAUER Inc. 72 Pease Boulevard Newington, NH 03801

#### **COMPLAINT AND JURY DEMAND**

#### **PARTIES**

- 1. Patricia Hall-Cloutier ("Ms. Hall") is an individual residing at 231 Long Hill Road, Dover, New Hampshire.
- 2. Defendant SIG SAUER Inc. ("SIG") is a Delaware corporation registered to do business in New Hampshire with a principal address at 72 Pease Boulevard, Newington, New Hampshire.

#### JURISDICTION AND VENUE

- 3. The Court has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to RSA 491:7.
- 4. Venue is proper pursuant to RSA 507:9.

#### FACTS RELEVANT TO ALL COUNTS

- 5. Ms. Hall has extensive experience with the laws and procedures relating to the import/export of controlled firearms.
- 6. On or about September 15, 2015, SIG hired Ms. Hall as the Director of Import/Export Compliance.

#### No Discipline

- 7. Ms. Hall performed her job duties satisfactorily.
- 8. She was not the subject of any discipline pursuant to SIG's disciplinary policies.

#### Recent Raise and Bonus

- 9. In February 2017 Ms. Hall received a performance-based raise.
- 10. On May 11, 2017 Ms. Hall received a raise.

## Intentional Violation of Federal Controlled Weapons Export Laws

- 11. Throughout the course of her employment, Ms. Hall identified and reported instances in which documentation regarding the export of SIG weapons violated applicable United States laws regarding export license applications, agreements, and regulations.
- 12. One particularly noteworthy instance of such a violation happened on or about June 1, 2017.
- 13. Ms. Hall discovered that someone within SIG's Sales Department changed the identified recipient of a shipment of controlled weapons, as identified by the National Firearms Act.
- 14. Ms. Hall was able to confirm that someone at SIG removed the automatically generated Oracle invoice from the documents package and substituted a manually created invoice that identified a different end-user than the end-user identified on the export license that Congress, the State Department (DOS-DDTC), and the ATF approved.
- 15. Ms. Hall confirmed that this happened by comparing available documentation regarding the shipment including a comparison of the approved export license authorization with the documents sent to the freight forwarder.
- 16. Upon discovering the end-user change, she also communicated directly with the freight forwarder which advised that the end-user the Sales Department had identified was the

end-user on the documents they received.

#### Sales Department Admitted Changing End-User

- 17. Ms. Hall then discovered that the Sales Department did *not* send the freight forwarder all of the usual required documents.
- 18. Instead, it omitted several of the required ones that would have had the correct end-user *and* substituted the manually created invoice identifying the new end-user.
- 19. Upon information and belief, the Sales Department communicated with the freight forwarder in this way to conceal that it changed the end-user.
- 20. When asked how it happened that he did not send the freight forwarder all of the usually required and forwarded documents, the Sales Department representative advised that he had "forgotten to send all of them."
  - 21. This was an intentional misrepresentation.
- 22. When asked why the end-user was changed, the Sales person advised that the new name of the end-user was the "Indonesian way of spelling Ministry of Defense."
- 23. When asked why the address for the end-user—in addition to the spelling of the name—also was changed, the Sales person initially had no response. Another individual present then claimed, however, that he received "an email from the agent for the customer who directed that the shipment needed to go to the new address."
  - 24. This was an intentional misrepresentation.
  - 25. Ms. Hall asked to the see the email.
  - 26. The Sales employee was unable to produce it.
  - 27. Ms. Hall asked that he send it to her.
  - 28. She never received it.

- 29. Ms. Hall then addressed this directly with the International Logistics Manager. He, too, identified that he had not received the full set of usual shipping documents from the Sales Department.
- 30. This action of changing the end-user on an export shipment of controlled weapons directly violated federal law including, but not limited to, the export license authorization, applicable ATF regulations, State Department statutes and regulations, Commerce Department statutes and regulations, US Customs and Border Protection statutes and regulations, and, upon information and belief, the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (FCPA).

#### Direct Report to Mr. Shawver

- 31. On or about June 1, 2017, Ms. Hall reported what she learned directly to her supervisor Mr. Shawver.
- 32. Specifically, she reported that she learned of SIG employees who appeared to have intentionally violated federal export laws regarding the shipment of controlled weapons to a foreign country.
- 33. Mr. Shawver responded, "it is exporting 101 that you do not change the enduser on a shipment."
- 34. This was a reference to requirements within federal statutes and regulations requiring that exports be shipped to the end-user identified on the export license.
  - 35. He asked Ms. Hall about the status of the shipment.
- 36. She advised that part of it was still in the country and the rest was already in the air. She advised that she was working with the freight forwarder to correct the filing in the ACE system so that end-user to receive the shipment was the actual one listed on the export license authorization and *not* the one identified on the manually created invoice.

37. The conversation with Mr. Shawver ended with his comment "it sounds like we need to have an investigation here."

#### Follow-up With Freight Forwarder on June 5, 2017

- 38. Mr. Shawver was out of the office the next few days on vacation.
- 39. On Monday June 5, 2017 Ms. Hall emailed the freight forwarder for further information regarding this shipment. She requested Proof of Delivery reflecting that the shipment was sent to the correct end-user the one identified on the export license authorization and *not* the one on the manual invoice.
- 40. She spoke directly with the freight forwarder advising that she would require this information as there was going to be an investigation regarding the shipment.
- 41. The representative advised that providing such a proof of delivery would "take some time."

#### No Mention During Morning Communication - June 6, 2017

- 42. Mr. Shawver was scheduled to return to work on Tuesday, June 6, 2017.
- 43. That morning, he called Ms. Hall to advise that he had a late-night flight the night before and would be in the office later in the morning or early afternoon.
- 44. Mr. Shawver asked Ms. Hall questions about a Chinese toolmaker and its involvement with one of SIG's Israeli suppliers.
- 45. Ms. Hall notified Mr. Shawver that a meeting was scheduled for that Thursday to address issues surrounding this supplier and the export violation of technical data to China and a violation of the manufacturing licensing agreement issued by DDTC.

#### FMLA Leave Reminder

46. Ms. Hall reminded Mr. Shawver during this early morning June 6<sup>th</sup>

communication that she would be out of the office that afternoon to attend her mother's oncology appointment.

47. Ms. Shawver and others at SIG were well aware of her mother's serious health problems *and* Ms. Hall's need to assist in caring for her. Previously, Ms. Hall had taken leave using her accrued vacation and personal time to care for her mother and as recently as April 2017 had notified SIG that she would require FMLA leave throughout 2017 to care for her mother especially following her anticipated third surgery in May.

#### Sudden Notice of Termination

- 48. While working in the office that morning Ms. Hall did not see Mr. Shawver.
- 49. Shortly before she was scheduled to leave for her mother's doctor appointment, Ms. Hall received a call from Human Resources ("HR") asking that she attend a meeting.
- 50. She went to HR where she observed Mr. Shawver, who appeared to have just arrived at work, standing next to the HR representative's desk.
- 51. Mr. Shawver then advised Ms. Hall that there had been a "reorganization", that Ms. Hall's position had become "redundant", and that SIG was "letting her go."
  - 52. One of the security managers then escorted me from the building.

#### LEGAL CLAIMS

#### COUNT I Whistleblower Claim RSA 275-E

- 53. Ms. Hall restates and incorporates by reference all allegations within this Complaint
- 54. Ms. Hall engaged in activity protected by the Whistleblower Statute when she made numerous good faith reports that she had reasonable cause to believe were a violation of United States law. These instances included, but were not limited to, reporting numerous

instances of direct and apparently intentional violations of federal law including, but not limited to, the export license authorization, applicable ATF regulations, State Department statutes and regulations, Commerce Department statutes and regulations, US Customs and Border Protection statutes and regulations, and, upon information and belief, the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (FCPA).

- 55. Thereafter, Ms. Hall was subjected to action that would dissuade a reasonable worker from reporting the legal violations when SIG terminated her employment.
- 56. There was a causal connection between Ms. Hall's protected activity and the adverse employment action.
- 57. As a direct and proximate result of the foregoing, Ms. Hall suffered damages and injury.
- 58. Ms. Hall demands judgment against defendant for all available damages by statute and common law including, but not limited to, pain and suffering, compensatory and enhanced compensatory damages, lost wages, back pay, front pay, attorney's fees, costs, any and all other damages to which he is entitled including all interest all of which is within the jurisdictional limit of this Court.

#### COUNT II (Wrongful Termination)

- 59. Ms. Hall incorporates by reference all allegations within this Complaint.
- 60. At all times during her employment with defendant, Ms. Hall performed her duties with diligence and competence.
- 61. Ms. Hall engaged in protected activity under RSA 275-E by notifying her employer of numerous violations of federal export laws, violation of company policies, her investigation regarding these violations, the responses that employees provided, the names of

the individuals involved in the activity, and her belief that the actions may and were likely to result in harm to the SIG SAUER. Ms. Hall also engaged in protected activity by availing herself of FMLA leave rights and benefits.

- 62. Defendant terminated Ms. Hall's employment because she engaged in protected activity under RSA 275-E and/or the FMLA.
  - 63. Defendant's decision was motivated by bad faith, malice, or retaliation.
  - 64. As a direct and proximate result of the foregoing, Ms. Hall suffered damages.
- 65. Ms. Hall demands judgment against defendant, including, but not limited to compensatory and enhanced compensatory damages, lost wages, back pay, front pay, attorney's fees, costs, any and all other damages to which she is entitled including all interest all of which is within the jurisdictional limit of this Court.

#### COUNT III (FMLA Retaliation)

- 66. The plaintiff incorporates by reference all allegations within this Complaint.
- 67. Ms. Hall engaged in statutorily protected conduct by requesting FMLA leave.
- 68. Defendant terminated Ms. Hall's employment because of Ms. Hall's exercise of her protected rights.
- 69. Defendant's termination of Ms. Hall's employment, therefore, was causally related to her engaging in protected activity.
- 70. Ms. Hall demands judgment against defendant including, but not limited, backpay, frontpay, compensatory damages, enhanced compensatory damages, and attorneys fees, together with interest and costs and such other and further relief as this Court deems proper.

#### JURY DEMAND

71. Plaintiff demands a jury trial on all claims so triable.

Respectfully submitted,

PATRICIA HALL-CLOUTIER

By her attorneys,

SHERMAN LAW, PLLC

Dated: 8/10/2017

John P. Sherman, Bar No. 12536

Sherman Law, PLLC

155 Fleet Street

Portsmouth, NH 03801

(603) 570-4837

# THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE JUDICIAL BRANCH http://www.courts.state.nh.us

Court Name:	Rockingham Superior Court	e / ¿·	1000 11 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1
Case Name:	Patricia Hall-Cloutier v. SIG SA		y 1974
Case Number:			
·		E/WITHDRAWAL	
APPEARANCE			
	ance (Select One)	annon (Civil anno ant)	1
Appearance If limited appear	ے داسانوں ہماد rance, scope of representation:	pearance (Civil cases only,	)
Select One:			
As Counsel Patricia Hall	for: 231 Long Hill R	oad, Dover, NH 03820	
(Name)	(Address)		(Telephone Number)
(Name)	(Address)		(Telephone Number)
(Name)	(Address)		(Telephone Number)
☐ I will represe	ent myself (self-represented)		
WITHDRAWAL As Counsel for			
Type of Repres	entation: (Select one)		
Appearance Notice	: e of withdrawal was sent to my cl	ient(s) on:	at the following address:
A mo	tion to withdraw is being filed.		
	earance: (Select one) withdrawing my limited appearand tation.	ce as I have completed the	e terms of the limited
The to	erms of limited representation ha	ve not been completed. A	motion to withdraw is being
appearance for agreement of the p	this date I provided a copy of this this case by: Hand-delivery parties to use this method of service).	s document to the parties voor US Mail OR E	Email (only when there is prior
Date Sherman Law,	PLLC	Signature John P. Sherman	
Mailing Address 155 Fleet Street	, Portsmouth, NH 03801	Printed Name jsherman@johnsherma	nlaw.com
603-570-4837		Email Address 12536	
Telephone		NH Bar ID # if attorney	

NHJB-2318-S (03/24/2014)